

## MINUTES

The Town of Manteo Board of Commissioners held their Regular February 5, 2020 session in the Manteo Town Hall meeting room 407 Budleigh Street at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

- Mayor Bobby Owens
- Commissioner Darrell Collins
- Commissioner Christine Walker
- Commissioner Eddie Mann
- Commissioner Richie Burke
- Commissioner Betty Selby
- Commissioner Jason Borland

The following members were absent:

Also present at the meeting were:

- Town Manager James Ayers
- Asst. Town Mgr. /Finance Shannon Twiddy
- Town Clerk Becky Breiholz
- Planner Melissa Dickerson

Mayor Owens called the meeting to order 6:30 pm followed by a moment of silent meditation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of Agenda as presented or amended

**MOTION:** Commissioner Mann seconded by Commissioner Borland to approve the agenda as presented was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Commissioners Burke, Mann, Collins, Walker, Borland and Selby. Noes: None. Absent: None.

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of the items on the Consent Agenda as presented or amended.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Collins seconded by Commissioner Mann to approve the January 15, 2020 minutes; Resolution 2020-01 Designating Applicant's Agent; 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks contract on consent agenda as presented was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Commissioners Burke, Mann, Collins, Walker, Borland and Selby. Noes: None. Absent: None.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bob Keeney-Fernando St. thanked the Board for actions taken regarding the dredging contract and knows that there were some personnel issues and would like to know what happened to the dirt. He would like to request the Board periodically update the citizens with what is going on and for them to do an update plan at their mid-month meeting. He also suggested as a compromise the workshop meeting be held at 5:00 pm. He also thought the videoing of the regular meeting was a success and suggested that the Board televise the mid-month meeting as well as the Planning and Zoning Board meetings.

Tim Teeple-Fernando St. thanked the Board for videoing the meetings and that it was one year ago that it started. He thinks the Board should also televise the workshop meeting and the Planning Board meeting as well with all the changes that are coming up.

Malcom Fearing-Manteo-commented that there is a lot of scuttlebutt in the Town about the Board and staff regarding the dredging audit. There has been a loss of presumption of innocence; accusations have been made and he is not here to say they are guilty or innocent. He read an email that will be made a part of these minutes. Staff and previous Board members have been accused of wrongdoing; they have served the Town, and do they not deserve your time to find out what is true and not true. This Board has the authority to find the truth whether innocent of guilty. There is also forgiveness and redemption.

Public comments closed at 6:40 pm

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**SUBJECT:** Discussion and consideration of changing the workshop meeting time to 6:30 pm. Mayor Owens commented he does not have any objection to both meetings being at 6:30. Commissioner Burke asked if anyone asked the employees and Town Manager James Ayers commented yes and that they will do what the Board requests. Commissioner Walker commented that the workshop is an informal meeting and is an opportunity to come together with staff and thinks it should be left the way it is. Commissioner Borland is struggling with this and wondered how it impacts the staff and sees the value of having staff here and we can also start televising the workshop meeting. Commissioner Walker thought televising would help get the information out and the time will not be convenient for everyone. Commissioner Mann thinks 6:30 is better and would probably work better for the citizens. Commissioner Selby thinks the citizens should have a choice. Mayor Owens commented that we have a great staff but does not think the employees should tell them when they work. Commissioner Collins stated the Town employees make the Board look good and would like to keep it at 4 pm and start videoing the workshop meeting and the Planning Board meeting. Commissioner Burke commented that we can compromise for 5:00 pm.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Borland seconded by Commissioner Burke to start the recessed workshop meeting at 5:00 pm, that they be televised and that the Planning Board meetings be televised also was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Commissioners Burke, Mann, Collins, Walker, Borland and Selby. Noes: None. Absent: None

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**SUBJECT:** Discussion and consideration of Audit Contract

The Town of Manteo issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the provision of audit services on December 20, 2019. Five proposals were received by the due date on January 22, 2020. The proposals were responsive to the RFP and the prospective firms offered appropriate qualifications. Proposals were evaluated by the Town Manager and Finance Director in accordance with the evaluation criteria listed in the RFP, including governmental audit

experience, education, technical qualifications & expectations, audit approach, and cost. Here is the rank order of the prospective firms with the highest-rated firm listed as #1:

1. Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co. P.A. (Wilmington, NC)
2. Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC (Atlanta, GA)
3. Martin Starnes & Associates, CPAs, P.A. (Hickory, NC)
4. Rives & Associates, LLP (Raleigh, NC)
5. S. Preston Douglas & Associates, LLP (Lumberton, NC)

The proposed action is for the Board of Commissioners to authorize the following:

- The Town Manager is to negotiate a contract with the highest-rated firm.
- In the event contract negotiations are unsuccessful with the highest-rated firm, the Town Manager is to negotiate with the second highest-rated firm and so on until a contract is successfully negotiated; and
- The Mayor or Town Manager, whichever is required to be signatory by the Local Government Commission, is to sign the contract.

Commissioner Burke asked if there were no local firms to apply and was informed no. Commissioner Selby thought we should wait and research more. Commissioner Burke thought this needed to be done as soon as possible.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Burke seconded by Commissioner Mann for staff to negotiate and execute of the audit contract was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Commissioners Burke, Mann, Collins, Walker and Borland. Noes: Selby. Absent: None

#### **MAYOR'S/COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Mayor Owens would like to see this Board work with the County on affordable housing. The County has property at Bowsertown, and we are the only municipality in the County that has enough land and the Town could help with zoning and water and sewer and would like the Town Manager to handle this.

Commissioner Selby commented on having an audit done for the last 5 years and suggested that Mr. Ayers get price quotes for the audit. She also would like to know where the sand went. Mayor Owens commented that there was a lot more involved in the dredging and thinks the State Audit was unfair and a lot they did not want to hear.

Commissioner Walker commented on the dredging and audit was discussed in closed session and not sure how Mr. Fearing knows people were supportive or not, they were audited because of an anonymous letter sent to the State.

Commissioner Collins commented that he has been invited to speak to the first-grade class at Manteo Elementary School; also on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month the Pea Island Preservation Society will be doing a presentation at the N.C. Aquarium at 12 pm and 2 pm.

Commissioner Mann thinks a forensic audit should be done of all financial areas of the Town and not leave any stone unturned. Possibly contact a neutral third-party investigator to do an independent audit.

Commissioner Burke agrees with the Mayor on affordable housing and would like the Town Manager to contact the County Manager and let them know we will help them but not financially. Mr. Ayers commented that discussions have already started with the County.

Mayor Owens commented he appreciates everyone coming out and participating and this is a small town and there are going to be rumors and gossip and would like the citizens ideas and thoughts.

There being no further business to come before the Board or other persons to be heard a motion by Commissioner Mann seconded by Commissioner Mann the meeting was recessed at 7:10 pm until February 19, 2020 at 5:00 pm was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Commissioners Burke, Mann, Collins, Walker, Borland and Selby. Noes: None. Absent: None

This the 5<sup>th</sup> day of February 2020

ATTEST:

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Bobby Owens, Mayor

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Becky Breiholz, Town Clerk